ABSTRACT

TANDEM FREE OPERATION OVER PACKET NETWORKS

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A packet-based network carries a stream of voice band data, such as PCM voice data, which can include tandem free operation (TFO) information. Voice data is usually subject to processing, such as compression, at an ingress entity. The ingress entity determines

10 whether the stream of voice data contain tandem free operation (TFO) information and, if TFO information is present, sends the TFO information across the packet network without subjecting it to processing. This preserves the integrity of the TFO information. TFO information can be carried by an unprocessed channel having a

15 bandwidth of less than 64kbit/s. TFO information is reinserted at an egress entity of the packet network.